

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the City of Greenbelt is committed to conserving resources and protecting the environment, human health and reducing expenses; and,

WHEREAS, changes in our daily lives can have a significant impact on our environment, health and economy; and,

WHEREAS, Greenbelt currently hauls 1,749 tons of waste to the landfill at the cost of \$59/ton (\$103,194.54), and,

WHEREAS, landfill and incineration of waste leads to environmental and human health consequences, including toxic gas and groundwater pollution, significant loss of natural resources, and higher municipal expenses; and,

WHEREAS, viewing our solid waste as a resource can lead to benefits including recovery and reuse of natural resources and reduction of toxic gas and groundwater pollution; and,

WHEREAS, Zero Waste is a philosophy where no trash is sent to landfills or incinerators and all discarded materials are considered as resources to be recovered and reused; and,

WHEREAS, research has established that promoting positive alternatives to landfill and incineration along with raising community awareness of the social and economic benefits gained when waste is regarded as a resource, can lead to green employment and business opportunities in our community; and,

WHEREAS, Zero Waste Week is being celebrated internationally and Greenbelt will celebrate with events to help educate all citizens of Greenbelt in the reduction of waste.

NOW, Therefore, I, Emmett V. Jordan, by the authority vested in me by the citizens and City Council of Greenbelt, hereby proclaim, September 1 to September 7, 2016 to be

ZERO WASTE WEEK

in Greenbelt and encourage all our residents and City programs to increase their zero waste efforts by engaging in reducing waste, reusing materials, composting food scraps and yard waste, and increasing household and City recycling, as these are effective ways to make a positive impact on our environment, preserve our natural resources, protect our health, reduce our landfill needs and costs, and enhance the quality of life for present and future generations.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Greenbelt, Maryland, to be affixed this 8th day of August, 2016.

EMMETT V. JORDAN, Mayor

ATTEST: Cindy Murray, City Clerk

